

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman

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STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN HUNTER ON DECISION TO DEPLOY MISSILE DEFENSES

“I strongly support the President’s decision to proceed with the deployment of an initial defense capability to finally begin to protect the United States against ballistic missile attack.

“This decision to move forward is both necessary and prudent. Necessary because the proliferation of ballistic missile technology continues unabated as demonstrated last week off the coast of Yemen. Prudent because, over the last few years, we have demonstrated a degree of technological maturity that permits us to proceed with a reasonable degree of confidence.

“The case for deploying a national missile defense system has never been more clear. Today, the United States cannot stop a single ballistic missile headed for an American city. The consequences of such an attack would be devastating, and the danger continues to grow as nations such as North Korea, Iraq, and Iran continue to develop, purchase, and sell advanced ballistic missile technologies. As evidenced by the recent North Korean shipment of Scud missiles to Yemen, proliferation of ballistic missile technologies is a real and growing threat to our national security.

“With this important policy decision behind us, the task remains to stay on course to fully develop the necessary technologies through a vigorous and realistic test program to ensure the most effective missile defense capability possible.

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